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criticism of State education something very unlike the superficial objections often urged against a policy of taxation for educational purposes. The discussion is reduced to the vital and fundamental questions of what true education is, and whether the State, in virtue of its own nature and constitution, can control educational policy without ruining education the thing. Few readers, perhaps, will accept the conclusions offered, but it is most earnestly to be hoped that many will be stimulated to think seriously on the problems raised. The most satisfied believer in State sufficiency will hardly fail to be impressed by the criticism of the State as an agency that inevitably is and always must be *morally* weak. As would be expected, M. Leroy-Beaulieu gives a large proportion of his space to a consideration of the relations of the modern State to great industrial undertakings, and the quasi-public works of municipalities. Knowing thoroughly the financial aspects of these matters, he often makes short and sharp work of the assumptions of the advocates of State ownership. Yet he by no means falls back on an unmodified *laissez faire*. He shows that the State has a distinct function to perform in protecting public rights and social order, but insists on simplicity of administration and on the greatest freedom of individual initiative consistent with equality of privilege and protection.

F. H. G.

MASON'S VETO POWER. Harvard Historical Monographs, No. 1. "The Veto: Its Origin, Development, and Function in the Government of the United States (1789-1889)." By EDWARD CAMPBELL MASON, A.B. Paper, pp. 232. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1890.

HARVARD, following the example of several other Eastern universities, has adopted the plan of publishing some of the theses produced by her more advanced students of history and politics; and of this plan the publication of Mr. Mason's excellent monograph on *The Veto Power* is the first fruit. It is certainly a most creditable piece of work, pains-

taking, thorough, and well arranged; written in a business-like style, which loses no time; indicative also of a clear-sighted appreciation of the significance of its subject as a topic in political science, of its bearings and uses in studies of a wider scope. Mr. Mason has searched the public records, not only for all the vetoes, but also for all the Presidential protests touching legislative action between 1789 and 1889; he has classified the vetoes as those affecting the form of government, those affecting the distribution of the powers of government, and those affecting the exercise of the powers of government, and has discussed each of these classes separately; he has analyzed carefully the constitutional procedure as to vetoes; he has sketched the genesis of the veto power, and has outlined its political development; and he has added six valuable appendices, giving chronological lists (occupying more than seventy pages) of all the vetoes and protests, with references to documentary sources, as well as of the vetoes sent to the Confederate Congress by President Davis; a tabulated view of the vetoes of the several Presidents, a condensed statement of the provisions of State Constitutions relative to the veto, and a list of the books he has used in the preparation of the monograph.

This would seem to leave little to be desired, even in the absence of the chapters on the workings of the veto in the States, and on the veto power in other modern constitutions, which, we are told in the editor's preface, were crowded out by the unexpected bulk of the matter here published; and, from one point of view, nothing more ought to be desired. The thoroughness and exactness of the record here made of the use of the veto in the first hundred years of our present federal government must command hearty admiration from everyone who understands just how much industry and how much intelligence such thoroughness and exactness indicate. No one can fail to see how much one important topic is simplified by Mr. Mason's monograph for all future students of consti-

tutional machinery. From another point of view, however, the work is by no means so satisfactory in respect of what it accomplishes—and that the very point of view which the author himself seems to have sought to occupy in its preparation—the point of view, namely, of historical and comparative politics. The historical matter contained in those portions of the book which seek to explain the genesis of the veto power, and to sketch its development as a political factor, is thin and unsatisfactory; not inaccurate, except by reason of what is omitted; inconclusive, because meagre; without body, and consequently without weight. It is true, for example, that the veto in England remained with the Crown as the mere negative half of the once round and complete power of legislation at first exercised by the Sovereign; and it is true that the veto has been disused since Anne's time; but it is also true that it is just within the period since Anne's time that the initiative in legislation has, under the guarantees of ministerial responsibility, passed to the Cabinet: that when, nowadays, we say the Crown, we mean the ministers; and that the part of the English executive in legislation, and in the positive, formative, aggressive side of it, is just as important now as it ever was. That is the reason that the negative part of the executive power in legislation has not been used since Anne sought to have ministers to her own liking. We copied the disused power, the veto, and omitted—wisely or unwisely—the initiative of the Crown.

Again, Mr. Mason refers to the characteristics of disposition or of policy which determined the attitude of the several Presidents toward legislation, but his references lack color and reality, and make no impression. He discusses constitutional points, but so slightly as to leave a sense of weakness. But it would be unfair to insist upon these defects, as if they marred the real value of the sketch to those who shall use it to base conclusive commentary upon. Criticism with insight may be based upon it, and history that tells its whole story; and those who thus use

Mr. Mason's clear matter will know best how valuable, how indispensable it is.

WOODROW WILSON.

Princeton.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND, 1620-1789. By WILLIAM B. WEEDEN. Two volumes; pp. 964. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1890.

THE work of a path-breaker in a new field will always be honorable, whatever we may think of the method employed. Mr. Weeden has opened to our notice a new outlook for historical investigation, and has shown to thoughtful readers, at least, the necessity of an examination into subjects which have been generally relegated to the attention of local writers and antiquarians. This is the great merit of the volumes before us. The antiquarian or the curious reader may be satisfied with this first rough draft; we cannot be thus satisfied, nor can we join with many of the reviewers in seeking to show what is apparent to any reader, that it is but a rough draft. The whole period of the economic history of New England must be rewritten, first in monographs, then in more comprehensive works. For this purpose the volumes before us are the preparation, a preparation for which every student will be thankful. From these can be selected a host of subjects, attractive even in the disconnected account here given. It is only indicative of the change which has come over historical writing and writers that such have scarcely been touched before. Until a sounder examination of economic causes and conditions is made, we will remain dissatisfied with the explanations given for many of the facts of the colonial period. This economic influence can be distinctly seen in the breaking-down of colonial isolation, in the developing and changing the character of the colonists themselves, in the broadening of the horizon of their interests by bringing them into contact with the great centres of trade, both in the Old